

Division of Services for People with Disabilities

Report on Waiting List

March 2007

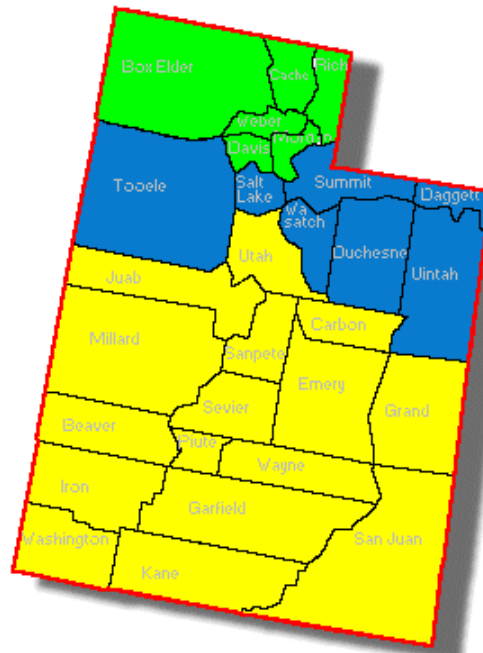
REGIONS

The Utah State Division of Services for People with Disabilities, a division of the Department of Human Services, is divided into three regions, a Central, Northern and Southern Region. The Central Region includes the counties of Salt Lake, Tooele, Summit, Daggett, Wasatch, Duchesne and Uintah (blue section in the map below). The Southern Region includes all counties south of Salt Lake County (yellow section in the map below). The Northern Region includes downtown Salt Lake City along with all northern counties (green portion of the map below).

The Division provides funding for out-of-home and in-home services for Utahns with severe intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities or brain injury. These services allow people who would otherwise be in a nursing home or intermediate care facility, to live safely in their own home and community. Currently the three regions provide funding and service coordination for approximately 4,200 Utahns with intellectual disabilities or related conditions and 100 Utahns with Brain Injury. In addition, the state office in Salt Lake City coordinates services for about 170 people with physical disabilities.

Map of Regions

- - Northern Region
- - Central Region
- - Southern Region

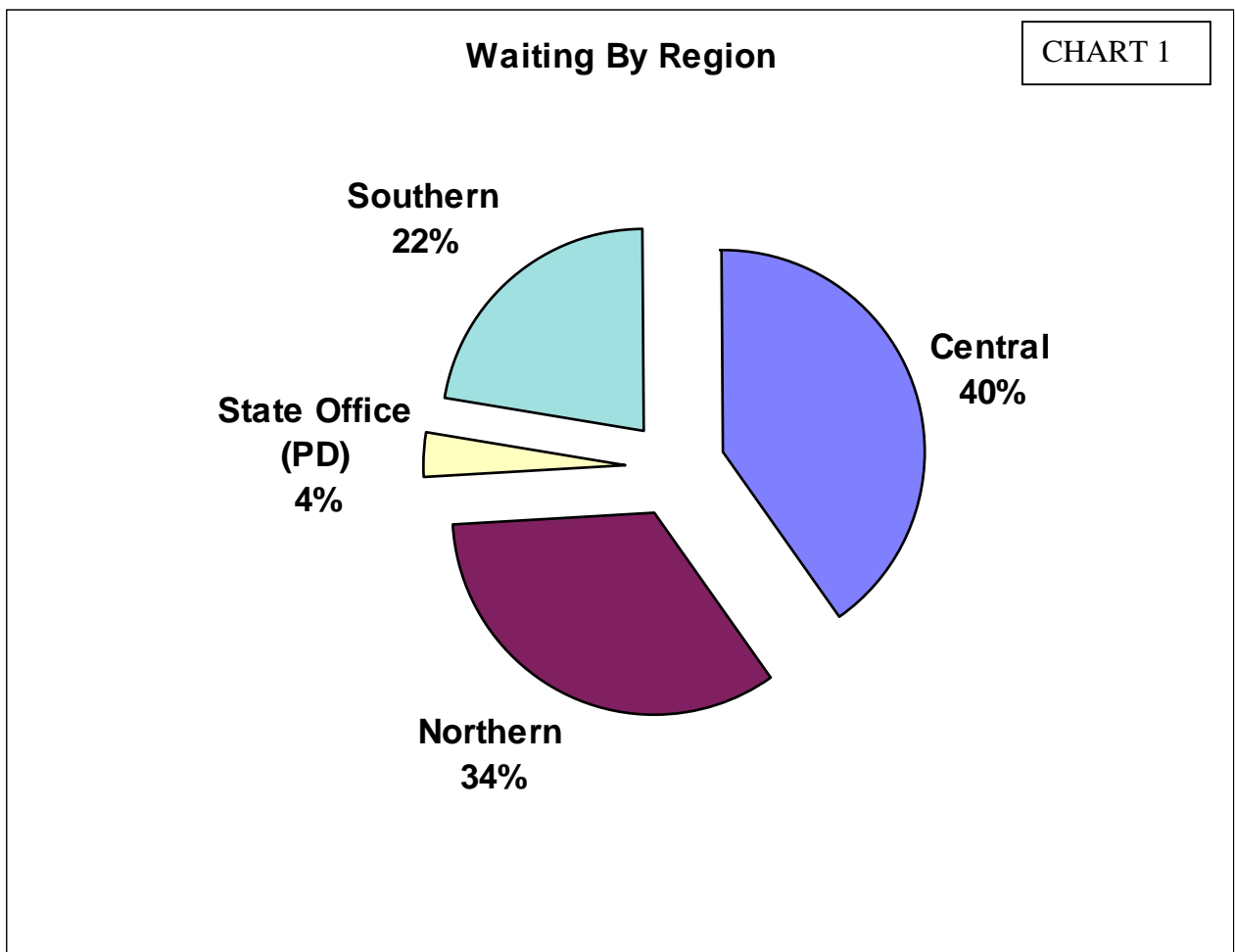


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WAITING LIST

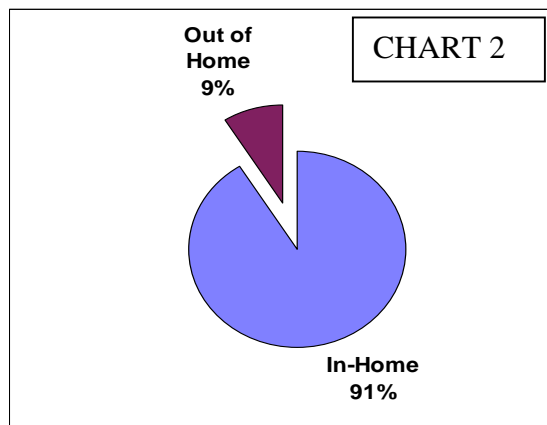
Utahns who are found to meet eligibility requirements are placed on a statewide waiting list for services until funds are freed up through attrition or new funds are allocated by the Legislature. The Division triages those on the waiting list by assessing the criticality of their current needs. A person's rank order on the list is set using a standard assessment to score each person's critical need. The assessment looks at the person's situation (living on their own, with family caregivers, homeless), the severity of person's disability, health and safety issues, dangerous behaviors and the number of years the person has been without services. Currently, 1,839 People are on the Division of Services for People with Disabilities Waiting List. Most of the people waiting live in Salt Lake County (see chart below).

1,839 Utahns with Severe Disabilities on the Waiting List



SERVICES

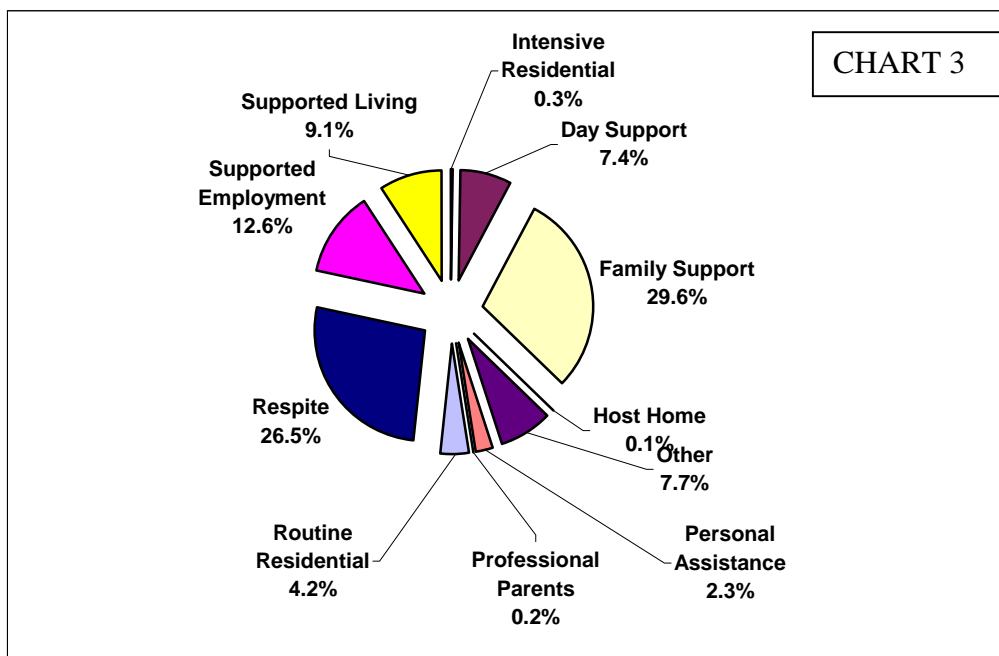
The Division provides funding for an array of services that include supervision, support, training and companionship for Utahns with severe disabilities. Services are of two major types either out-of-home or in-home. 24 hour Residential



services like group homes, supervised apartments, professional parent and host homes make up the out-of-home service type. In-home services help to preserve Utah families and include, family support and training, respite, personal assistance, chore and homemaker services, supported living, supported employment, transportation and day services. Over 90 percent of the 1,839 people on the waiting list want some kind of In-Home Service (chart 2).

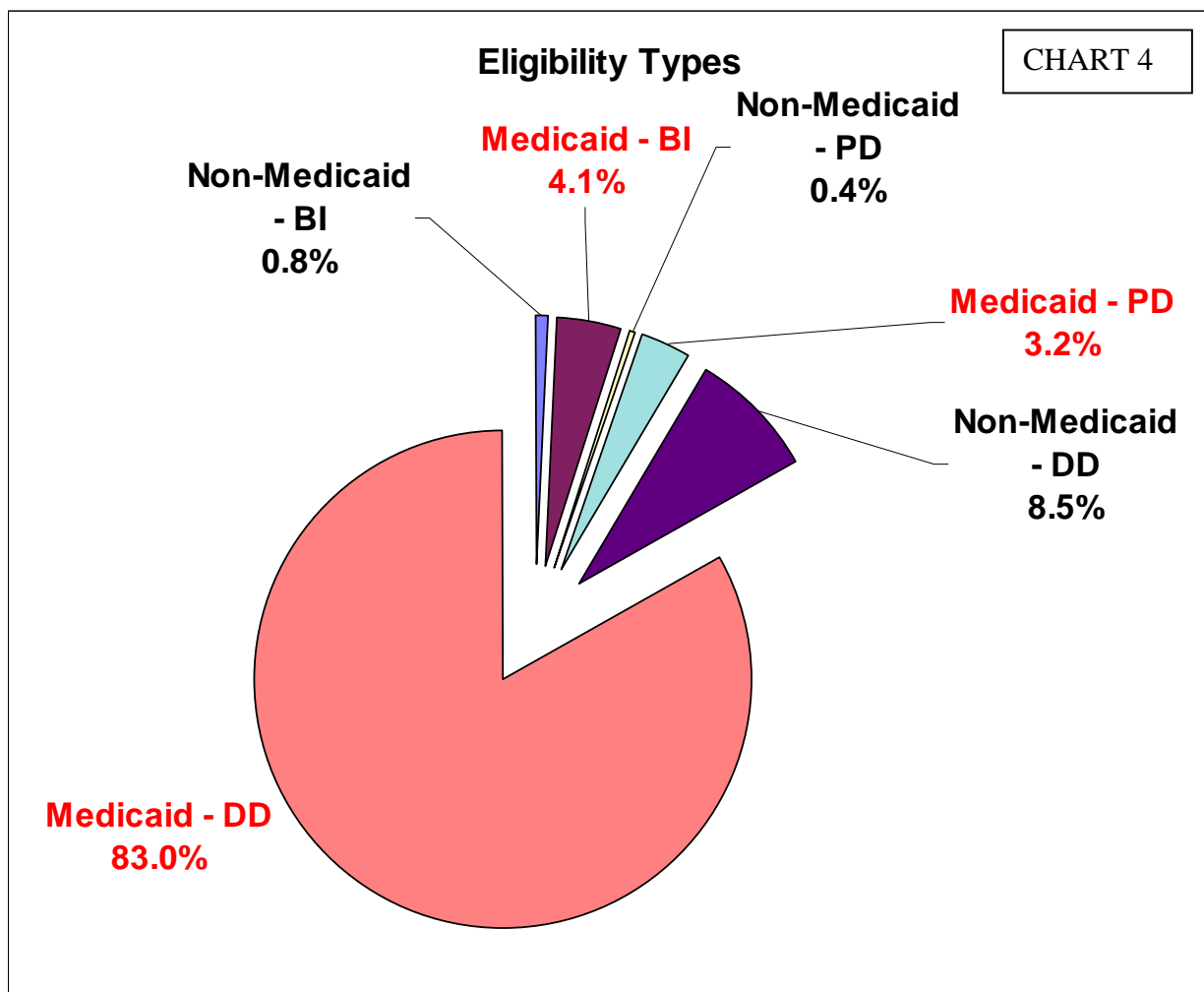
The cost in state general fund for in-home services is usually around \$2,500 per person per year, while the average general fund cost of out-of-home services is around \$17,000 per person per year. In most cases, individuals eligible for Division services also meet eligibility requirements to receive federal Medicaid funding. Those who are eligible for federal Medicaid funding get the state funds matched with federal funds, matching three federal dollars for every dollar of state funds. Those who are eligible for federal Medicaid funding receive a total amount around 8,400 for in-home and \$56,700 for out-of-home services.

A breakout of services people for which people are currently waiting is shown in chart 3. Most people are waiting for family support services and respite.



ELIGIBILITY

Because of the partnership between the state and federal funding sources, the Division determines the category to which each person belongs before they enter services. Individuals receiving services are divided into two groups of those who receive or do not receive federal Medicaid funding and further divided by type of disability. In all there are six eligibility groups, Medicaid funded individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability (DD), a physical disability (PD), or an acquired brain injury (BI) and Non-Medicaid funded individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability (DD), a physical disability (PD), or an acquired brain injury (BI). The breakdown by category is shown below in chart 4.



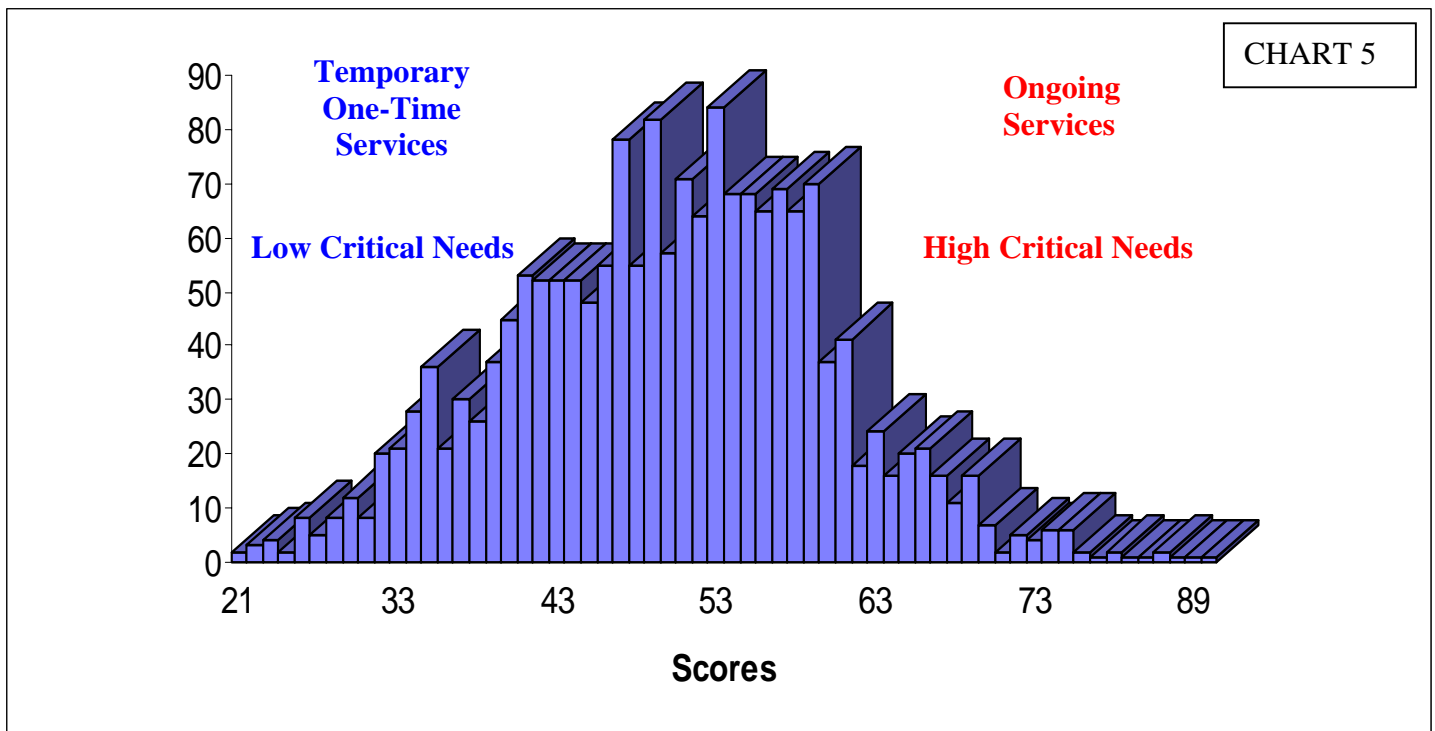
WAITING LIST NEEDS SCORES

Most people on the waiting list have needs scores between 40 and 60 (chart 5). Over the past three years, allocations from the Utah State Legislature have allowed the Division to provide funding for individuals with needs scores of 60 or higher. During that same period of time, the top ten to twenty percent with the highest critical need scores received funding. The allocation received for fiscal year 2008 of \$1 Million dollars in State general funds will pay for approximately 235 people to enter services from the waiting list.

In the 2006 legislative session a supported employment pilot was approved that focused on providing services for people with lower needs scores as an early intervention program. This pilot was approved for a second year during the 2007 legislative session. So far the pilot has resulted in around 50 people being removed from the waiting list.

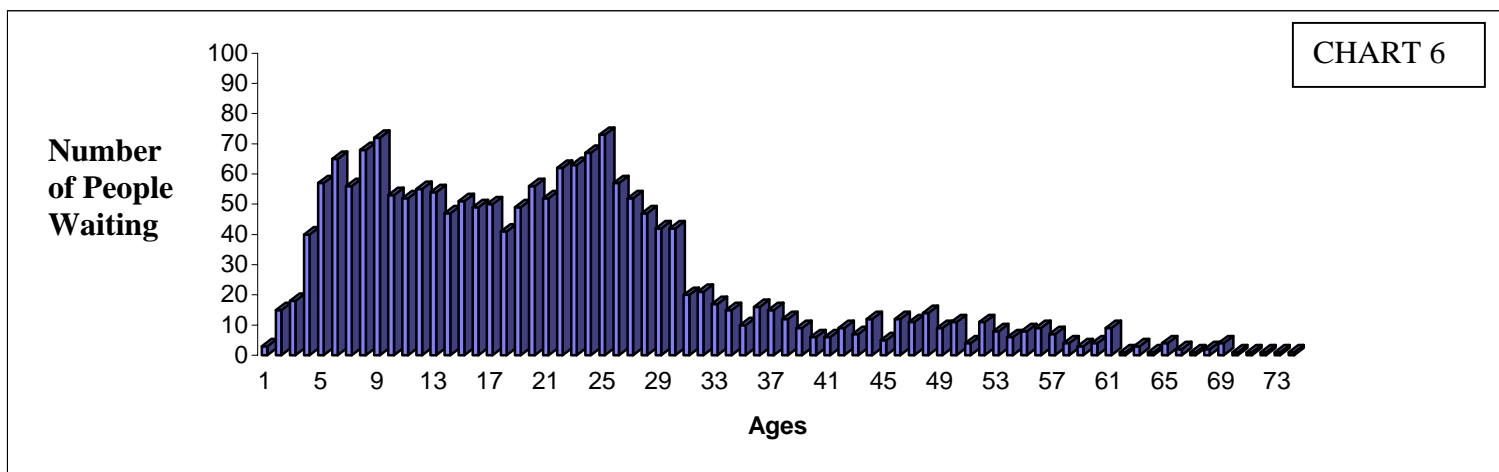
A second pilot approved in the 2007 legislative session, "The Family Preservation Pilot," will also provide a time limited early intervention/prevention program to individuals waiting with low critical.

These two pilot's illustrate the Division's strategy to address the waiting list from both ends by trying to keep costs down through targeted prevention/early intervention programs while continuing to address the needs of the most critical.



AGES

The Division provides services for people of any age if they have an intellectual disability or a related condition and from age eighteen and over if the person has a brain injury or physical disability. Currently people receiving services range in age from less than one year old to several individuals who are over eighty. In terms of those waiting for services, the largest age groups are children age four to nine and adults age 22 to 25 (chart 6). Since most students with disabilities in public schools graduate at age 22 and need a service to replace what they received in school, it is little surprise that this age group is one of the largest waiting for services.



INVESTMENT TO FUND THE WAITING LIST

By grouping the services that each individual is waiting for and entering the cost of each type of service the Division can estimate the investment to fund the entire waiting list. Currently, it is estimated, that the state would need to invest \$7.5 million in general funds to fund the entire waiting list. This is calculated by taking the 1,839 currently waiting for services and reducing it by 9.5 percent. From historical trends we know, approximately 9.5 percent of people on the waiting list have moved out of state, entered an institution, died, or cannot meet new stricter eligibility requirements and therefore are not available or eligible to receive funds.

For example, if all 1,839 people on the waiting list were funded, approximately 175 people on the list would not be offered services due the reasons listed above. Because most individuals on the waiting list will qualify for Medicaid funds the state's investment of \$7.5 million would be matched by an additional \$13.5 million from Federal Medicaid resulting in an estimated \$21 million to fund services for 1,665 people.

LENGTH OF TIME SPENT WAITING FOR SERVICES

With new legislative appropriations the Division selects only those at the top of the waiting list to receive services. Utahns with severe disabilities who live in stable families and who are not in immediate danger or at risk may wait for years before they become critical enough to move to the top of the list. As a result many people wait for several years before receiving funding to enter services. Most people have been waiting for services from one to four years (49 percent), followed by those who have waited five or more years (34 percent). Those waiting less than a year number 316 people and 17 percent of the total (chart 7). Several people have been waiting more than fifteen years for services to begin. These are individuals who have had and continue to have low assessed needs.

